



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Department Reaches Settlement Agreement with Metech International

Sacramento - The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced that it has reached a settlement agreement with Metech International Inc., which includes \$20,500 in penalties for hazardous waste violations at its facility located at 6200 Engle Way in Gilroy, California.

Metech's Gilroy facility recycles and recovers precious metals and was cited by DTSC investigators for the following violations occurring in October 2000:

- C Receiving hazardous waste at the facility without obtaining and reviewing results of the analyses of the hazardous waste;
- C Exceeding the facility's permitted storage capacity by storing hazardous waste in seventy-seven 55-gallon drums. The facility's hazardous waste permit allows the storage of only sixty-seven 55-gallon drums of hazardous waste;
- C Storing hazardous waste for more than one year;
- C Failure to properly display the date that hazardous waste was received on lot identification tags placed on incoming hazardous waste shipments;
- C Failure to properly display identifying labels on hazardous waste containers so that the labels were visible from the aisles;
- C Failure to provide a minimum of two feet of aisle space for numerous containers of hazardous waste located in certain storage areas.

A Rhode Island based company, Metech International Inc. is associated with Sweden's Trelleborg AB. The company operates two facilities in the U.S., one in Mapleville, Rhode Island and the other in Gilroy, California.

Although Metech denied liability for the hazardous waste violations found at its Gilroy facility, the settlement agreement included a DTSC imposed \$20,500 penalty. Under the terms of the agreement, DTSC is not limited from taking appropriate enforcement actions against the company for any future violations.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."